



Shreveport Society for Nature Study
BIRD STUDY GROUP
NEWSLETTER

Volume 25, Number 6

February 7, 2011

Next Meeting – February 8, 2011
**Update on The Nature Conservancy
in North Louisiana**
Presented by Dan Weber

FEBRUARY MEETING

When: Tuesday, February 8, 6:00 p.m.
Where: LSUS, Science Lecture Auditorium
Topic: Update on The Nature Conservancy in North Louisiana
Presented by: Dan Weber

Dan Weber represents The Nature Conservancy in Northwest Louisiana. He received a B.S. degree in wildlife conservation and management from Northeast Louisiana University, Monroe, and an M.S. degree in Biology from ULM in Monroe. Dan spent four years in Guatemala doing conservation work, followed by four years in the state of Washington working with Spotted Owls and Marbled Murrelet. He has been with The Nature Conservancy for the past twelve years. Dan will provide an overview of Nature Conservancy work in the ArkLaTex and beyond, including a discussion of TNC's role at the Mollicy Farms Floodplain Restoration project, a large coastal prairie restoration effort, oyster reef restoration in the gulf, and much more!

Refreshments start at 6:00 p.m. and the program begins at 6:30 p.m. Come at 6 to chat with other birders!

LOUISIANA WINTER BIRD ATLAS

January 10 – February 20

RUSTY BLACKBIRD HOT SPOT BLITZ

January 29 – February 13

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Friday, February 18 – Monday, February 21

**GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT &
BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS AT THE RED
RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

Saturday, February 19, 2011, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon

Sponsors: Friends of the Red River National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Wild Bird Center of Shreveport

BIRDS OF PREY PRESENTATION

A Walter B. Jacobs Memorial Nature Park Program

Saturday, February 19, 2011, 1:30 PM

CHENEYVILLE - SANDHILL CRANES

Date: March TBA

PINOLA PRESERVE

Date: TBA, but late March/early April

BIRD STUDY GROUP PHONE NUMBERS AND MORE

Bird Study Group meets the second Tuesday of each month, September through June, 6:00 p.m. To be placed on the list to send & receive emails, email birdalert@birdstudygroup.org.

Contact the BSG by email: lhardy@lsus.edu or phone (318) 797-5338.

Visit us on the web at <http://www.birdstudygroup.org>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

February Program	1
Upcoming Field Trips and Events	1
Wild Bird Center, Beginner Birding Events	4
Important Messages from the BSG Board	4
BSG Board and Committee Chair Directory	5
Bird Report	6

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS AND EVENTS

By John Dillon

All field trips will **DEPART** from the listed meeting place at the time posted. Be early at the meeting place for orientation information and carpooling. BSG Membership is not a requirement for participation in any field trip, but it is encouraged.

What to bring: binoculars, field guide, scope (if possible), snacks/drinks for yourself and pen/paper if you'd like to keep your own records of sightings.

FEBRUARY

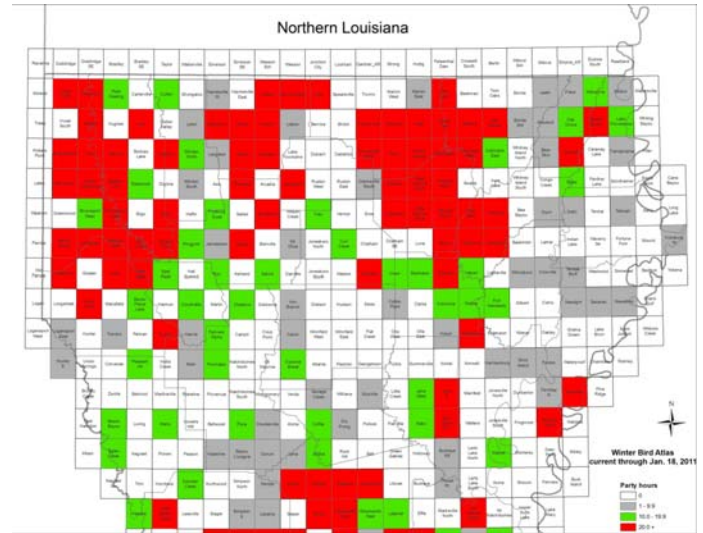
LOUISIANA WINTER BIRD ATLAS

January 10 – February 20

Northwest Louisiana has been represented quite well for the Atlas, as you know, and the BSG has taken several area quads well over 100 species. This may or may not be the last year for the WBA (having been extended at least through this year because of the immense participation), **so we need to fill in as many holes as we can.** You can view the LWBA coverage map and find the quads that still need to be birded. Simply go to www.museum.lsu.edu/~Remsen/LWBA-coverage.jpg to check it out.

You can help fill in the Gaps!

As a special note, I've already spoken with Van Remsen and a few of the more active BSG birders about teaming up on quads this year. I encourage you to participate in the Atlas this way so that we can fill in as many holes in our area as we possibly can for this final year of the Atlas. Find a quad that is below the 20-hour threshold and divide it among 3 or 4 birders, similar to CBC territories. Bird the quad one morning, and you should be able to reach the 20-hour threshold collectively in 1 day. I've included the current coverage map for the Northern Interior below. (white= 0 party hours, grey = 1-9.9 hrs, green=10-19.9 hrs, and red= 20+ hrs)



Follow up: Last month, Rosemary Seidler, Carolyn Phillips, Jay Huner, Gerry Click and I divided the previously unbirded Natchitoches North quad into three sections and birded it. In only 2 days, we collectively put in 23.5 hours and found 100 species. **PLEASE** consider doing the same with other birders and other quads.

If you've never birded for the Atlas: please read the following, and please consider birding for it this year:

The Louisiana Winter Bird Atlas is a volunteer study of LSU that aims to produce accurate data reflecting the distribution, density, and general numbers of bird species in our state during the winter. Basically, the state is divided into quadrants based on the USGS quad divisions. Volunteer birders all over the state pick quads to bird, and they enter their results on eBird through the LWBA eBird Portal. Ideally, each quad in the state should get 20 hours, but a minimum of 10 is satisfactory. You can either be a compiler (meaning the birder responsible for keeping up with the time a quad is birded, who birds it, and the accuracy of the reporting), or you can simply bird the quads of your choice, inform the appropriate compilers, and enter your observations into eBird. If you know the birds in this area, you should bird for the WBA as much as possible. For more specific information, such as quad maps and boundaries, FAQ's, and unofficial quad results, please access the LSU Bird Resource Center website at <http://appl003.lsu.edu/natsci/labirdweb.nsf/index>

Please remember two things if you consider birding anyone's quads:

First, please be courteous and check with the appropriate quad compiler prior to birding the area. Some quads may need more birding time than others, and the compilers may suggest certain quads or areas within

quads to bird or to avoid. Or, you and the compiler may wish to make a date to bird a quad together. For a list of current quad compilers, go to <http://appl003.lsu.edu/natsci/labirdweb.nsf/index>

Second, when you input your data into eBird, be sure to scroll down on the eBird homepage until you see the link for the Louisiana Winter Bird Atlas. Access the LWBA page by clicking the link, taking you to the page with the following URL, www.ebird.org/LWBA/index.html If you do not input your data into the specified LWBA section, your data will simply go into eBird and not into the LWBA. You may also use eBird's "Share" feature to send the compiler a list of the birds you entered. If you have never registered with eBird, you will need to do so; it is free, and it is a wonderful online birding resource.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD HOT SPOT BLITZ

January 29 – February 13

Compiler – International Rusty Blackbird Technical Working Group, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and National Audubon Society.

Support the declining Rusty Blackbird by reporting your observation through eBird. Numbers of Rusty Blackbirds of dropped by about 90% over the last several years, and biologists need your observations to document their current range and numbers. This is the second year for the Blitz, and eBird and Cornell Labs are encouraging birders like you to get involved and do your part in the conservation of this species.

For more information go to http://nationalzoo.si.edu/ConservationAndScience/MigratoryBirds/Research/Rusty_Blackbird/protocol.cfm

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Friday, February 18 – Monday, February 21

Compiler – Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology/National Audubon Society; <http://birdsource.org/gbbc/>

Birding for the GBBC is a great way to bird during the Winter Bird Atlas. Observations for the GBBC are based on individual ZIP codes and can be entered at the GBBC website. Over this four-day weekend of birding, bird as much as you can for any number of ZIP codes. If you know other birders who live within your ZIP code, bird the area together, or compete with birders in other ZIP codes for the highest number of species.

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT & BREAKFAST WITH THE BIRDS AT THE RED RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Saturday, February 19, 2011, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon

Sponsors: Friends of the Red River National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Wild Bird Center of Shreveport

Contact – Nancy Menasco, 868-3255 (H/W), nmcpa@aol.com

From February 18-21 birdwatchers all over the U.S. and Canada will participate in the Annual Great Backyard Bird Count, a joint project of Audubon and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Join us on Saturday, February 19, as we count birds at the Red River NWR. Admission is free and the public is invited. Children are very welcome.

Schedule of Activities:

8:30 a.m. – Breakfast with the Birds. Breakfast bars, bagels, and hot beverages.

8:45 a.m. – Bird Walks. Children accompanied by an adult are welcome.

8:30 – 12:00 noon – Informal refuge tours

Nature trails wind throughout the refuge. Come walk the pecan grove and lake trails or follow the one of the river trails.

Directions to the refuge: From the intersection of US 71 (Barksdale Boulevard) and Jimmie Davis Highway (LA 511) in Bossier City, go south about one-half mile on US 71/Barksdale Blvd and turn right (west) on Sunflower Road. Proceed to the end of the road and through the gate into the refuge. The Headquarters Unit is open to the public daily for walk-in traffic during daylight hours.

In case of bad weather, the event will be cancelled.

BIRDS OF PREY PRESENTATION

A Walter B. Jacobs Memorial Nature Park Program

Saturday, February 19, 2011, 1:30 PM

Meet live birds of prey, learn how to identify some native species, and discover the world from a hawk's perspective. Senior Naturalist and Master Falconer Rusty Scarborough will be presenting.

Admission is free. Space is limited. To reserve your seats, contact Rusty at 318-929-2806.

Walter B. Jacobs Memorial Nature Park is dedicated to helping the citizens of Northwest Louisiana connect with

nature by conserving a pine-oak-hickory forest for interpretation and recreation. We provide nature education programs, stress awareness of the local environment, and emphasize the need for positive environmental action. Walter B. Jacobs Memorial Nature Park is funded by taxpayers, provided by the Caddo Parish Commission, and maintained by the Caddo Parish Parks and Recreation Department. The park is free and open to the public. For more information about the park and its programs, visit us online at www.caddoparks.com or find us on Facebook.

MARCH

CHENEYVILLE - SANDHILL CRANES

Date: TBA

Trip Leader – Jim Ingold – 797-5236(W), 742-5067(H), jamesingold@lsus.edu

Meet at the LSUS Museum of Life Sciences. Tour the back roads of the Cheneyville-LeCompte area by car to see **Sandhill Cranes**, waterfowl, waders, and shorebirds wintering in the rice fields. Bring a lunch to eat in the car.

PINOLA PRESERVE

Date: TBA, but late March/early April

Contact: John Dillon kisforkryptonite@gmail.com

BSG members were treated to a wonderful presentation last September about Paul Dickson's new Pinola Preserve, a top-notch, private aviculture facility at his house in Shreveport. Several of us visited the preserve in October while it was in its final stages of construction. In short, we were stunned! You can read my follow-up article about the trip in October's e-newsletter and view a few photos from the trip.

If you were unable to make it to the October trip, you really need to make an attempt to come see this private facility. Most zoos would be entirely jealous to have such an amazing facility. Paul is allowing the BSG members to attend because he knows of our serious interest in and appreciation of all bird species. But this facility is private, and there will be FEW future visits. Lastly, consider that this time of year is when the birds will be displaying their breeding plumage and singing more than any other time of year. It truly will be a treat! Be sure to bring binoculars and camera.

Directions: the address is 10451 Ellerbe Road in Shreveport. From the intersection of Ellerbe Road and

Bert Kouns, drive South on Ellerbe Road. You will pass Flournoy-Lucas and Norris Ferry Road. The entrance is across the street from Holy Angels School.

WILD BIRD CENTER EVENTS BEGINNER BIRD WALKS

The Wild Bird Center conducts field trips the first and third Saturday of every month, weather permitting. Meet at Wild Bird Center in the University Place Shopping Center (Target Shopping Center) at the corner of Youree Drive and East 70th Street. Destinations vary according to local sightings and may include local parks, country roads or a private backyard. Loaner binoculars are available. Be sure to bring a field guide.

For more information on any Wild Bird Center event, please call Dennis or Janice Forshee at the Wild Bird Center, 318-797-BIRD (2473).



Important Announcements from the BSG Board

GHOST BIRD IS COMING

“Ghost Bird” is a film that tells the timely story of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker's miraculous rediscovery in 2005. The BSG has bought the fundraiser screening kit for the film. We can show it as often as we like and in any venue. We are working on venues now. Watch for the announcement of the first screening and help support the Bird Study Group and this benefit to protect endangered species and the planet's biodiversity.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO ENTER BIRD RECORDS

We would like to have a volunteer to enter current and backlogged records into the BSG Bird database beginning as soon as possible. We have many valuable records to be entered. The process is very easy and a volunteer will receive complete instruction at the museum. We would like a volunteer for a few hours a day or week on a regular schedule so that we can get as many records entered as possible before May 31. At this time it contains 59 years of observations, from 1952 to the present, a total of 268,989 records.

THE END OF AN ERA: BSG DATABASE

After more than 30 years and nearly 300,000 bird records, some dating from 1952, the Bird Study Group is ending its database program. The last day to record birds into the existing database is May 31, 2011. After that date, birders are encouraged to enter their records into e-Bird online or their choice of other personal bird lists.

The BSG Database will be made available – in a searchable format – on our website. The historical database will continue to serve as a very important resource for research concerning the birds of our area.



**READ THE IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT
BSG Database
Field trip coordinator
Ghost Bird movie**

FIELD TRIP COORDINATOR NEEDED

John Dillon, our field trip coordinator, has resigned after three years of dedicated service. We greatly appreciate the effort and enthusiasm that John gave to the BSG. We would like to fill this vacancy as quickly as we can so the members of the BSG can continue to benefit from the engaging and educational field trips, especially in our local area. Anyone who would like to help the BSG by accepting this important position please contact Mac Hardy or any other member of the Board (the complete list is in each Newsletter). Being an expert birder is NOT a requirement. The primary responsibilities include: 1) scheduling a local half-day or day field trip to some local area (such as listed in our Hot Spots) as least once a month; 2) arranging for a leader for the field trip; and 3) get publicity information to Rachel Demascal (Publicity), Jerry Bertrand (webmaster), or announce the field trip at the regular meeting.

Any Suggestions for the BSG?

Your Board of Directors is trying very hard to improve the Bird Study Group and make it more attractive to new birders. Give us your suggestions about how to grow the BSG.

BSG Board of Directors & Committee Chairpersons	
BSG BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
OFFICERS	
<i>President – Mac Hardy (1).....</i>	<i>687-6738 (H), 797-5338(W)</i>
<i>Vice-president – Larry Raymond(2).....</i>	<i>929-3117 (H) 929-2806 (W)</i>
<i>Secretary – Silviera Hunt (2).....</i>	<i>220-0098 (H), 676-7156(W)</i>
<i>Treasurer – Dennis Forshee (1).....</i>	<i>797-2473 (W)</i>
MEMBERS AT LARGE	
<i>Jerry Bertrand (1).....</i>	<i>868-3255 (H/W)</i>
<i>Rachel Demascal(1).....</i>	<i>929-2806 (W)</i>
<i>Bill Wood (1).....</i>	<i>458-2930 (H)</i>
<i>John Dillon (3).....</i>	<i>243-2284 (H)</i>
<i>Bill Hall (3).....</i>	<i>797-1727 (H)</i>
<i>Jim Ingold (2).....</i>	<i>742-5067 (H), 797-5236 (W)</i>
<i>Amanda Lewis (2).....</i>	<i>861-5294 (H), 797-5215 (W)</i>
<i>Nancy Menasco (3).....</i>	<i>868-3255 (H/W)</i>
<i>Hubert Hervey (3).....</i>	<i>925-9249(H)</i>
<i>Terry Davis (3).....</i>	<i>934-2133(H/W)</i>
<i>Clyde Massey (2).....</i>	<i>868-9537(H), 424-4167(W)</i>
<i>Numbers in parentheses are years remaining of a 3-year term.</i>	
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS	
<i>Beginning Birders – Dennis Forshee.....</i>	<i>797-2473 (W)</i>
<i>Bird Alert Service – Rosemary Seidler.....</i>	<i>424-2972 (H)</i>
<i>Bird Hot Spot – Larry Raymond.....</i>	<i>929-3117 (H) 929-2806 (W)</i>
<i>Bird Records – Mac Hardy.....</i>	<i>687-6738 (H) 797-5338 (W)</i>
<i>Field Trip Coordinator – John Dillon.....</i>	<i>318-243-2284</i>
<i>Fund Raising – Jerry Bertrand.....</i>	<i>868-3255 (H/W)</i>
<i>Hospitality – Amanda Lewis.....</i>	<i>861-5294 (H) 797-5215 (W)</i>
<i>Library – Silviera Hunt.....</i>	<i>220-0098 (H), 676-5457 (W)</i>
<i>Membership Secretary – Mac Hardy.....</i>	<i>687-6738 (H), 797-5338 (W)</i>
<i>Newsletter Editor – Amanda Lewis.....</i>	<i>861-5294 (H) 797-5215 (W)</i>
<i>Folding/Mailing Committee – George Dean.....</i>	<i>.....</i>
<i>Programs – Larry Raymond.....</i>	<i>929-3117 (H) 929-2806 (W)</i>
<i>Publicity – Rachel Demascal.....</i>	<i>929-2806 (W)</i>
<i>Website – Jerry Bertrand.....</i>	<i>868-3255 (H/W)</i>

BIRD REPORT – *compiled February 4, 2011*

Use the bird report to see what other birders have been seeing and where to go find the bird you want to see. Observers are abbreviated by the first and last initials. Dates and localities of observations are summarized under the observer's initials. Sightings are arranged by species. Following each species is a line of data in the following format: date, initials of the observer, number of birds observed, initials of another observer, number of birds they observed, etc. For the number of birds observed, a 1 is used for both 1 bird and for numbers not reported by the observer. For example: 01/12/99 BB 2 means that on January 12, 1999, BB saw two birds. Then by looking on the observer list, located after the sightings, you can determine that BB is Bob Birder and on 1/12/99 he was birding C. Bickham Dickson Park.

Report bird records for the newsletter to Mac Hardy by the 25th of each month. All bird records reported here are observations of the observers and are therefore the responsibility of the observer.

OBSERVATIONS

Greater White-fronted Goose -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 1
Ross's Goose -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 2
Wood Duck -- 1/30/2011 RS 4
Gadwall -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 1
American Wigeon -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 10
Northern Shoveler -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 1
Pied-billed Grebe -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 5
Double-crested Cormorant -- 1/12/2011 RL 2
Great Blue Heron -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 1
Black Vulture -- 1/12/2011 RL 2; 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 1
Turkey Vulture -- 1/12/2011 RL 2; 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 1
Northern Harrier -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 1
Red-shouldered Hawk -- 1/12/2011 RL 1; 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 1; 1/30/2011 RS 4
Red-tailed Hawk -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 13; 1/30/2011 RS 1
American Kestrel -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 4
Killdeer -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 14
Wilson's Snipe -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 3; 1/30/2011 RS 2
Rock Pigeon -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 2
Mourning Dove -- 1/12/2011 RL 14; 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 18; 1/30/2011 RS 70
Barred Owl -- 1/12/2011 RL 2; 1/30/2011 RS 1
Red-bellied Woodpecker -- 1/12/2011 RL 1; 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 1; 1/30/2011 RS 8
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker -- 1/12/2011 RL 3; 1/30/2011 RS 2
Downy Woodpecker -- 1/12/2011 RL 1; 1/30/2011 RS 2
Hairy Woodpecker -- 1/12/2011 RL 1
Northern Flicker -- 1/12/2011 RL 2; 1/30/2011 RS 2
Eastern Phoebe -- 1/30/2011 RS 2
Loggerhead Shrike -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 1
Blue Jay -- 1/12/2011 RL 2; 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 8; 1/30/2011 RS 39
American Crow -- 1/12/2011 RL 4; 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 169; 1/30/2011 RS 28
Carolina Chickadee -- 1/12/2011 RL 2; 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 1; 1/30/2011 RS 12
Tufted Titmouse -- 1/12/2011 RL 2; 1/30/2011 RS 2
White-breasted Nuthatch -- 1/12/2011 RL 2
Brown-headed Nuthatch -- 1/12/2011 RL 1; 1/30/2011 RS 8
Brown Creeper -- 1/12/2011 RL 1
Carolina Wren -- 1/12/2011 RL 2; 1/30/2011 RS 6
Ruby-crowned Kinglet -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 1; 1/30/2011 RS 2
Eastern Bluebird -- 1/12/2011 RL 2; 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 7; 1/30/2011 RS 7
Hermit Thrush -- 1/12/2011 RL 1; 1/30/2011 RS 3
American Robin -- 1/12/2011 RL 1; 1/30/2011 RS 45
Northern Mockingbird -- 1/12/2011 RL 1; 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 4; 1/30/2011 RS 6

Brown Thrasher -- 1/30/2011 RS 1
European Starling -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 104
American Pipit -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 20
Cedar Waxwing -- 1/12/2011 RL 9; 1/30/2011 RS 13
Yellow-rumped Warbler -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 16; 1/30/2011 RS 19
Pine Warbler -- 1/12/2011 RL 4; 1/30/2011 RS 24
Eastern Towhee -- 1/12/2011 RL 1; 1/30/2011 RS 7
Chipping Sparrow -- 1/12/2011 RL 4; 1/30/2011 RS 7
Field Sparrow -- 1/12/2011 RL 8; 1/30/2011 RS 3
Savannah Sparrow -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 30
Fox Sparrow -- 1/12/2011 RL 1
Song Sparrow -- 1/14/2011 LA,PL,CP&SH 5; 1/30/2011 RS 5
White-throated Sparrow -- 1/12/2011 RL 11; 1/30/2011 RS 43
Dark-eyed Junco -- 1/12/2011 RL 12; 1/30/2011 RS 23
Northern Cardinal -- 1/12/2011 RL 6; 1/30/2011 RS 37
Red-winged Blackbird -- 1/30/2011 RS 12
Rusty Blackbird -- 1/30/2011 RS 58
Common Grackle -- 1/12/2011 RL 1400; 1/30/2011 RS 6
Purple Finch -- 1/12/2011 RL 4
American Goldfinch -- 1/12/2011 RL 33; 1/30/2011 RS 2

60 Species; 102 records out of 268,989 records in the BSG Bird Database

OBSERVERS

LA,PL,CP&SH -- Linda Adrion, Pat Lonnecker, Carolyn Phillips, & Shirley Huss: 1/14/2011 US 71 north, LA 3049, Sentell Rd, George's Rd, LA 173, LA 2

PL&SH -- Pat Lonnecker and Shirley Huss: 11/7/2010 LA Hwy 1, south of Shreveport

RL -- Robert Lance: 1/12/2011 South end of Crouch Road

RS -- Rosemary Seidler: 1/30/2011 Roy Quad



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Direct inquires to the Editor, Amanda Lewis, at (318) 797-5215.